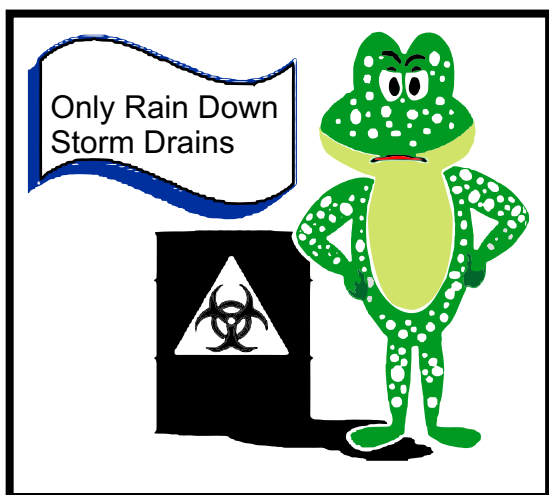


HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



Each year more oil is dumped into the environment from at home oil changes than the worst oil spill in US history. Used oil along with other household items such as antifreeze, bleach, turpentine, pesticides, paint, batteries, and most cleaners become hazardous waste when they are disposed of improperly. When the aforementioned products are dumped down the drain or into storm drains, they become hazardous waste, and then enter local creeks, harming wildlife and degrades the water bodies in and around Lawton.

When cooking oil and grease are dumped down home drains, they contribute to sewer blockage. Eventually, this sewer blockage causes that sewage to back up, and enter storm drains. This discharges sewage directly into local creeks, and can make wildlife ill and cause death.

prevent this, store your grease in a sealed container with an absorbent material like cat litter or coffee grounds. When the container is full, you can throw it away or dispose of it at a landfill.

Additionally, cleaning fluids, chemicals, and other household items should never be disposed of down the drain. Instead, only buy the cleaners that you need, and share any leftover cleaning products with neighbors. Also, buy biodegradable products to further prevent the chance of harmful pollution.

For more information, call the Lawton Stormwater Management office for the City of Lawton at (580) 581-3478.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID)?

LID is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and stormwater management that aims to mitigate development impacts to land, water and air. The approach emphasizes the integration of site design and planning techniques that conserve natural systems and hydrologic functions on a site. The practice has been successfully integrated into many municipal development codes and stormwater management ordinances throughout the United States. Specifically, LID aims to:



- Preserve open space and minimize land disturbance
- Protect natural systems and processes (drainage ways, vegetation, soils, sensitive areas)
- Reexamine the use and sizing of traditional site infrastructure (lots, streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks) and customize site design to each site
- Incorporate natural site elements (wetlands, stream corridors, mature forests) as design elements
- Decentralize and micromanage stormwater at its source.

LID BENEFITS

In addition to the practice just making good sense, low impact development techniques can offer many benefits to a variety of stakeholders.

Municipalities

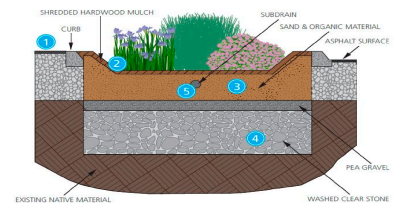
- Protect regional flora and fauna
- Balance growth needs with environmental protection
- Reduce municipal infrastructure and utility maintenance costs (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and storm sewers)
- Increase collaborative public/private partnerships.

Developers

- Reduce land clearing and grading costs
- Potentially reduce infrastructure costs (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and storm sewers)
- Reduce stormwater management costs
- Potentially reduce impact fees and increase lot yields
- Increase lot and community marketability.

Environment

- Preserve integrity of ecological and biological systems
- Protect site and regional water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients and toxic loads to water bodies
- Reduce impacts to local terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals
- Preserve trees and natural vegetation



PET WASTE



When it rains, stormwater runoff carries pollutants that are on the ground to storm drains, which carry that polluted water to local creeks. One source of stormwater pollution is pet waste that is left on the ground and washed away by rain. Once pet waste is in the creek, it has many adverse effects. First, the waste can carry a host of harmful bacteria and parasites that can harm both wildlife and humans with diseases such as Salmonella, Giardia, and Campylobacter. Also, the bacteria within the waste consume oxygen within the water, taking away from the wildlife, and can suffocate fish by reducing the amount of oxygen available to them.

To prevent this pollution, make sure that you always pick up your pet's waste. Utilize scoopers to make pet waste less strenuous and more sanitary. Pet waste should either be thrown away in a trash receptacle, or flushed down the toilet. You should not add pet waste to compost piles, as it will not get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms. Additionally, to make a bigger difference in your community, inform other pet owners of the dangers of water pollution by pet waste and tell them how to help lessen the effects. For more information, call the Stormwater Management office for the City of Lawton at (580) 581-3478.

Give Stormy and the Area Creeks a Hand

Get involved by participating in a stream clean-up or storm drain marking event.

STORMWATER CONTACT INFORMATION

212 SW 9th Street • Lawton, OK 73501 • (580)581-3478 Office • (580)581-3565 Hotline

Environmental Specialist – Cynthia Williams, Cynthia.Williams@lawtonok.gov

Stormwater Inspector – Troy Brandon, Troy.Brandon@lawtonok.gov

Engineering Associate – Mike Hawkins, Michael.Hawkins@lawtonok.gov

Vector Technician – John Breit, John.Breit@lawtonok.gov

Visit the Stormwater Website

Information about stormwater regulations, program updates and upcoming projects can be found online at <https://www.lawtonok.gov/departments/stormwater-management>

City of Lawton Environmental Service's facebook page to receive conservation and pollution prevention tips.

This newsletter has been sent as a courtesy. If you wish to be added to or deleted from this distribution list, please contact Cynthia.Williams@lawtonok.gov